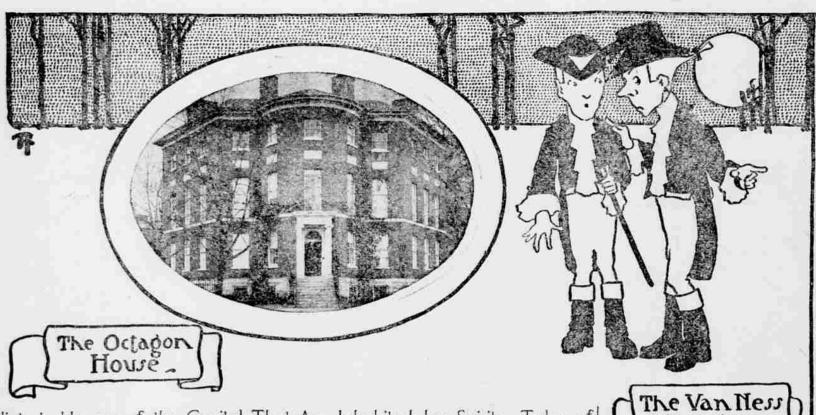
# HAUNTED HOUSES OF WASHINGTON AND THEIR WEIRD STORIES



Historic Homes of the Capital That Are Inhabited by Spirits---Tales of Ghostly Forms That Hover Near the Scene of Some Tragedy of Bygone Days---Occupant of Van Ness Mansion Saw a Small Woman, in Old-Fashioned Bonnet, Running Through the Hall, Calling, Frantically, "Steve! Steve!"---Headless Horses Seen in the Grounds ington. It was built on a century ago by

or even the probability of the exrious phantoms of another world.

#### The Origin of Ghest Stories.

Ghost stories usually cluster about a hoose that was once the home of some individual of marked character, either for good or bad. The arbitrary will or great

XCEPTING some extreme material- by, memories of revelry and joy, or the flung herself, or was flung by her brother, ists, there is no human being who darker imprint of cruelty and crime. will absolutely deny the possibility Of these, one of the best known is the to her death on the floor at the foot. cetagon house, on the corner of Eight. She is said to haunt the scene of her teristence of beings in a state not ordinarily centh Street and New York Avenue, a rible death. Of another tragedy, perceptible to human senses; but there solid, plain building erected by the Tay- murder of a beautiful slave by a British are few who will express belief in any loe family a century ago. It was in its officer, no details can be had. These are account of a specific instance of the ap- glory in the days following the war of pearance to mortal sense of these myste- 1317, when lovely Dolly Madison held mansion the theatre of ghostly rehearsals court there after the burning of the of events long gone by. There is, perhaps, no other subject of White House. The prettiest legend condiscussion received with such absolute be- cerning it is that every midnight the Hef in the general and such entire skepti- old brilliant scenes of gayety are recism in the particular. Yet for this very enacted by the ghosts of the old restime. reason, possibly, there is no class of folk. Then the watcher in the building may lore which attracts greater attention than | hear phantom carriages drive to she front of the house, may hear the calls of the coachines, the footmen aenouncing guests, and all the incidents of a stately ball,

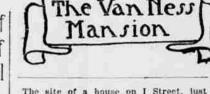
#### Never Saw the Ghost.

eccentricity lives in the memory of the Architects Club, whose headquarters are the room, when the door opened and the son were attacked on the night of Presiweaker dispositions about, and finally here said that she had frequently stayed secretary walked in. I spoke to him in dent Lincoln's assensatination bore a repurystallizes into an apparition or a dem- whill it o'clock in the octagon room, but great relief, but neither of us could ascer- tation for being unlucky. Mr. Seward's houses left in Washington which are said the unbupoy girl, a Mics Tayloe, who, be- unils, and the windows and doors were sequently General Belknap and his famito retain ghostly reminders of days gone cause she had married beneath her, either all closed."

from the top of the great spiral staircase the principal events that make this old

#### Heard a Deep Sigh.

"Only once," said my informant, the assistant secretary, "did I ever observe anything I could not account for. I was sitting alone in the octagon room when I flot the very charming and gracious a third sigh. I confess to having had a The Times about a year ago. lady who is assistant secretary for the feeling of nervousness, and rose to feave | The house in which Mr. Seward and his



off Connecticut Avenue, has been one of the reputed haunted places of Washa tailor, who had married a very beautiful girl, of whom he was jealous. The wife disappeared, and the tailor gave out died Mr. Blame himself, his son, and his hat she had gone to visit relatives. Soon daughter. The Lafayette Theatre now afterward he went away and never returned. Later, when repairs were being made, the remains of the unfortunate oman were found hidden in the house. Misfortune followed successive occu-

ants of the house, and servants declared that the shadowy apparition of a woman in white was to be seen outside the windows, beckening. The tragedies which filled the lives of both owners and residents culminated in the destructive fire in which the wife of Secretary Tracy lost her life. The new house, built after the fire, has no ghostly associations.

#### Haunted House Near Capitol.

The story of a house south of the Capiheard a very deep sigh behind me. I tot and facing it, with its murder from turned to see who it could be, but there jeniousy in the cellar, and the figure of a was no one. Again I heard the same deep woman in black, who enters from the sigh, this time right beside the desk where street and goes upstairs, disapeparing in I was scated. In a few seconds there was an upper room, was given in detail in

ity lived there, and the last to make a in the Burns cottage for twenty years, is beyond the understanding of anyone.

home in it was the Blaine family. There occupies the site.

#### Van Ness Mansion.

The last and by far the most interesting of Washington's haunted houses is the Van Ness mansion. Connected with the very earliest history of the city, a mansion whose rotting splendor fills one with a strange sense of loneliness, its beautiful location, its grandeur, its Isolation, and the pathetic hopelessness of its decay make the spectator feel with a shudder that in this blasted and forlorn spot there must indeed be inhabitants not of mortal ken or kin. Within, the ruin is still more desolate, and the oddlyplanned house with its numerous turns family of caretakers, who moved out but unfit for any save a ghostly tenantry.

### A Tradition of the West.

until their daughter and only child returned from school. Then it was that hopes of the Van Ness family died with

On the anniversary of Colonel Van Ness' death six headless white horses are said to gallop frantically around the house at midnight. Footsteps are heard and mysterious knockings. A lady in quaint, oldtime costume fits through an upper hall,

#### calling the name of an unknown person. Saw Dim Outlines of Woman. The writer saw and questioned the last

and windings, its many closets and un- a few days since. The wife told of her expected corners and hiding places, and own experience, of seeing the dim out- The broken places cannot be patched by the legend of the underground passage to lines of a woman's form beside her bed workmen of today. Not only have buildwhich the entrance cannot be found, its one night as she was half awake. She dismantled rooms with ribs grinning was startled into full consciousness, and where the plaster has fallen away, is all distinctly heard the visitant bid her to the old mansion has been buried with the go to a place for in the northeastern part | craftsmen. of the city, at the corner of two streets. In the West there is a tradition that She was sick, and did not go at the time instration which is a tribute to the force had never yet heard the sounds alluded tale any cause for the sounds. The room, daughter died from the shock of the atand power of the dead. There are a few to nor had she ever seen the ghost of as you see, is solidly built, with thick tack upon her father and brother. Subof David Burns, and they resided | however, and the meaning of the message

The wife's mother testifies to having seen the ghost of the Van Ness mansion. Colonel Van Ness and his family built She, the mother, was standing in a door and moved into the mansion. The daugh- opening into the front hall in the second ter married Mr. Arthur Middleton, and story when she saw a rather small lady, two years later the young bride and her in a very old-fashioned bonnot, run the babe lay dead in the new home, and the entire length of the long hall calling "Steve!" Steve!" The bonnet hid her face so that it could not be told whether she was young or old. She was welldressed, but she ran so swiftly that it was difficult to observe closely. The hall is not wide, and she passed so near that the spectator might have touched her.

The attention of the writer was called to the concrete by a mechanic. It is a peculiar red color and is less than au inch thick, and the art of making it is lost. No concrete made today would last at all unless spread much more thickly. ers and owners long since molded into dust, but the very art that constructed

And the slowly crumbling concrete and the fading memories and the mournful figure of the Lady of the Mansion flitting

made to a photographer who had found that always comes to the front and sets nate, and now, by way known laws aside. of contrast, I will mention a photographer who missed the nomination to Congress, and who has found something that is much better, from the material standard by which we are accustomed to estimate the good things of this world.

A former clerk to the Committee on Banking and Currency hoppened to be an be better to say that an enthusiastic ama- abroad for probably a score of times dur- instead of weakening it. In the "Phila- served the club as its president. The mittee, as he was a photographer first and all the time, but found time to write it will win new laurels and grace the exlearned reports on financial matters he- hibition walls of many an exhibition of smile of thine, dreamy, shadowy, Ads- the pleasure of listening to his interesttween the times that his negatives were the future. This old friend with a new line;" and while the picture is forgotten ing litustrated lectures. find, and in odd moments he wrote verses and historical articles for the magazines

In vacation times he made side trips to the historic places about Washington, and at times made negatives at Lincoln's old home, and during a hurried trip to Vermont and New Hampshire he secured many choice negatives of historic interest. Every day counted something done in this line until the time came when a are being fairly rivaled. new committee selected a new clerk, and the photographer was ready to turn his attention to something in the way of finance on his own account.

suggested that he might return to Wash- | the National Capital. ington as the Representative from the Third Congressional district, and upon the won," our photographer entered the campaign, and though be made a brilliant by a very few votes.

So far there did not seem to be very much of promise in the defeat, but the association of our photographic friend during the campaign with some of the and the beaux of the town from their fa- the Lafayette Square Schators - Hanna business men of Worcester, gave them a better insight into his fitness for positions of trust and confidence than could have been gained if he had not entered into the political race in which he failed

The owner of a large manufacturing concern in Worcester was at this time | quarter of the town along Connecticut | critical analysis of its merits, weighing very much in need of a capable business man who could take up the details of the business and relieve the proprietor of the | The ladies usually come with uncovburden which had broken down his health, ered heads, lightly draped or bare, save The place was offered to this energetic for some adornment of the confure; the young man and as a result of this open- men in regulation evening dress. Now ing Washington lost from her camera and again a smart trougham or an elecclub one of the eleverest amateurs, and tric bus carrying a family party varies Worcester gained a wide-awake, well- the procession of carriages and herdica, equipped man of business.

among its members Frank Roc Batcheld- enjoying an evening at the play, to for- and often have family parties. er, formerly clerk to the Committee on get the continuous interviews of the day Banking and Currency, and for some time and tomorrow. a member of the Capital Camera Club.

HE townsth does not always lead to | photograph; are subject to its influence. always the good fortune of the raphy, and its general truthfulness, and would make a better record by giving one of Turner's masterful marines for as usual his camera formed a part of his restricting his individuality. photographer to reach Congress, assert that the camera, like figures will to the public new pictures instead of old which no artist has achieved a greater baggage. His departure from San Francolumn recently reference was not prevaricate, but it is the exception pictures with new names.

The selection of a proper title for My attention has been called to this by sun, and many an artist of merit who Another Lobster Salad." noticing in the current number of the could give the public much pleasure by the made by one of the most active members written about the want of barmony be- Chib to meet and exchange greetings of the Photo-Secessionist School, to which | tween the picture and the title, and some | with his fellow-amateurs. Mr. Erwin is reference was made in this column a realize fully that it is much easier to an enthusiastic amateur photographer short time ago. The picture is one that make a heautiful picture than to select and a prominent member of the San amateur photographer. Perhaps it would has been exhibited in this country and a title that will strengthen the theme Francisco Camera Club, and at one time ing the past seven years and no doubt delphia Salon" for 1901, I noticed this lectures of Mr. Erwin in this city during with the fresh impetus of this new name. Title belonging to a picture sent by a for- the season of 1899 and the season of 1991 name is none other than the famous pic- the jingle of the meaningless title re- In his official duties as an inspector of teur finds nearly everything in the line

fame, and to which he had given the title cisco was pleasantly remembered by his United States at a recent business meeting have still held their membership.

Chino and the Filipine " field, Ohio, a well-known contributor to photographic magazines, has recently been appointed as an assistant examiner in the Patent Office. Mr. Pearson at one time contributed a series of articles to ten process in these days when the ama-

"Ho, Another Whale," was dismissed by friends in the Camera Club, who char-decided to hold its annual "meet" in this present Washington is represented by picture is not the easiest thing under the don Times." With the single remark, "Ho, the outgoing transport a short distance carry out this arrangement committees ond with a membership of six. tered a small steamer and accompanied city during the week of May 12 and to seven members and Boston is a close sec on her way. The pictures made of the were appointed to attend to the necessary "Delineator" a reproduction of a photo- expression of his message has fallen short Mr. J. W. Erwin, of San Francisco, is win as the introductory slides in his pop- Brandt, made a highly satisfactory report issuing an album each month containing graph entitled "The Hour of Prayer," In the selection of a title. Much has been in the city and has called at the Camera ular lecture, "The Land of the Jap, the upon the present condition of the club, prints from each member. This album showing that there are no vacancies in is accompanied with a notebook containthe club membership, and that there are | ing a full description of all the facts conseveral applications for membership on cerning the making of each print con-

the waiting list. The finances of the club tained in the album, and there is ample are in a flourishing condition with a large room in the space in the notebook alstock of supplies on hand and a fine sur- lotted to each print for full criticism of The Pestal Photograph Club is probably

the "Camera" on the manufacture and the most unique photographic organiza- The notebook also contains a voting list use of "Plain Paper," an almost forgotlimited to forty members, and these are scattered over the Middle and Eastern which is issued by the secretary of the

the White House, and it is not We may boant of the accuracy of photogresiding at Evansville, Ind., who have The Postal Photographic Club of the moved there from the Eastern States and

each picture, and criticisms by each member is one of the duties of membership. club.

The business of the club is all carried on by correspondence, and the monthly albums are shipped by express from one member to another according to a route

list arranged by the secretary. Club is the most unique photographic orthan any other organization. Its memfor the purpose of keeping in nearer touch with some of the best amateurs Washington covers a wide range. Mrs. of the country and exchanging prints and criticisms with these whom they may never become acquainted with except through the medium of the albums and

Among its present membership may be mentioned F. A. Waugh, of Burlington, Vt.; Frank R. Fraple, of Boston, Mass.; Osborne I. Yellott, of Towson, Md., and J. Horace McFarland, of Harrisburg, Pa., into a playhouse and proves himself the all of whom are frequent writers on photographic subjects and the authors of text-books on photography which are recognized as standard works.

The club has the distinction of including in its membership Mr. Alfred Monroe of Concord, Mass., who has attained the ripe old age of eighty-five, and still continues to contribute to the album his quota of prints which show that his eye has not dimmed, and that his hand has

And there is a long list of ex-members who are known to all the photographic world, such as F. C. Beach, editor of the Amateur Photographer;" J. E. Dumout, of Rochester, N. Y.; Elizabeth Almy Slade, of New York; Emma J. Fitz, of Boston; Howard Gray Douglass, Max Hansmanu, and Frances Benjamin Johnston, of this

At the last convention of the National Woman's Suffrage Association held in this city there was presented to Susan B. Anthony a portrait of Miss Anthony which was considered a work of a high order of merit. This portrait was the work of Miss Sarah J. Eddy, of Providence, R. L. who is a painter as well as photographer and an enthusiastic member of the Postal Photographic Club. And so in May the members of this

unique organization will pack their cameras and start for Washington, and for a week devote themselves to the beauties of the National Capital.

## managed to make negatives of every ture formerly known as "Scurrying mains with me as a horrible example. I the Postoffice Department, Mr. Erwin of photography ready for his use, a con- States. At some time members have re-◆ FIRST NIGHT PERFORMANCE AT A WASHINGTON

in the hustling city of Worcester, Mass., go. St. Louis, or Cleveland, always a first- story told behind the footlights. They Misses Pasmoefote,

theory of "nothing ventured, nothing the audience is recruited not from the ent Secretary Root alone may be de- as the sister of Rostand, author of to Mexico, are with Mr. and Mrs. "Ned" canvass he was defeated in the primarics | trone, and young girls come from their | are Hanna, Lodge, Depew, and Wetmore, theatregoer, Very "smart" in costume vorite haunts.

The diplomat leaves his smoking room. the Congressman his den or cafe, and toand Pennsylvania Avenues down H and F Streets to the theatres.

and, perhaps, once or twice a week the At the present time our late camera now well-known equipage of the White club member is traveling abroad as the House bowls swiftly along up to the enrepresentative of the manufacturing con- trance of the theatre. The "colored" cern in Worcester, and so far as money footman leaps from the box, touches his considerations go he is several thousands; hand to his still but, ornamented with better off per year than he would have the Continental cockade in the form of a fringed by the namor members of the been if he had been elected to Congress red, while, and blue resette, and opens from the Third Congressional district of the door of the carriage for Mrs. Roose-Massachusetts, but the man is still a veit and her friends or semi-occasionally, d'Affaires. The lactics of the house of young man, and Congress may yet count for the President himself, prepared, in Leiter and Townsend are smong these

I lent audience." The Washington first night is, in fact, The members of the Cabinet are equally tra sents, as do the Austro-Hungarian and his charming bride, formerly Miss considered a social function; the bulk of irregular in their attendance, and at pres- Minister and Mme. Hengelmuller, while, Clayton, the daughter of our Ambarsaulor "professional" element, but from fash- scribed as a theatregoer. The Senators "L'Aiglen" and "Cyrano de Bergerac," Padelford, and not far away are Mr. and box, accompanied by some clever Senator ionable society at large. Downgers, ma- who figure most conspicuously at the play Mme, de Margerie is naturally a constant Mrs. Pierre Lorrillard, so well satisfied and his wife, and, passing through Washdrawing rooms, via the dining rooms, who are oftentimes seen in bexes, al- and as dark as her husband is fair, the that they proposed returning to the Capimembers of the Metropolitan and the though Senator and Mrs. Depew occa-Army and Navy Clubs from their cozy sionally occupy orchestra chairs. The Embassy is conspicuous among fashion- not elect to pass the season abroad. corners; paterfamilias from his library, play is, in fact, the favorite recreation of able first-nighters.

and Depew. Depew is perhaps the best Hatener; occasionally he throws his head back, every word; Senator Hanna grasos the broad effects and revels in the humanity of the story rather than in its embroidery. Senator Beveridge's comments are occasionally truly sententious,

There are Western Senators who sit quiet and unobserved, passing in and out without the calcium light of recognition being thrown on their movements, and these might easily be mistaken for local. business men out for the evening.

The boxes at the play are often as good as a comedy. Shining lights of the plutocracy of Dupont Circle and Massachusetts or Rhode Island Avenues sit in one Corps Diplomatique, with perhaps a bacheter Minister er a detached Charge

The Ambassadors occasionally appear although the German Ambanzador is more The patty footman ushers the members | partial to concerts and musical perform-Time brings many changes and even of the Presidential party into the box re- ances than to the drama. The French

in social Washington-that of the draws back the curtains, and distributes special "star," such as Mrs. Patrick for the orchestra stalls and covered for dence-admirals on the retired list, fafirst-nighter at the theatres-and the programmes; then, stationing him- Campbell, whem he applauds with both the baxes, is a helle at the play. The moun beaux and hon vivants-all help too so marked is its progress this sea- soft in the passageway just outside the hands." The British Ambassador is too accomplished daughters of Mrs. Barney, swell the typical Washington first-night gamination in the country, and it may on that the familiar figures of Breadway box, stands on guard and within call, indisposed to will the theatres this seacatching glimpses of the performance son and Lady Pauncefote keeps him com-"Once a first-nighter, always a first- through the open door. The President juny at home, while Mrs. Crackanthorpe, as are the Misses Letter. nighter," has passed into an axiom in the onloys the play as he does everything the beautiful daughter of General Sickles. metropolis, and once a first-nighter in class, demonstratively: Mrs. Roosevelt and wife of the Third Secretary of the Navy himself is carefully sional men, those who practice photo-New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chica- often anales and seems absorbed in the British Embassy, chaperons the Hon. and the Adjustant General and Mrs. Corbin accutinged to note the effect on a hero's

the home of this wide-awake man, it was I nighter in Washington, is its variation at both more what is known as "an excel- | The Italian Ambassador and Mnic Mayor | traditions of the previous Administration. des Planches occasionally occupy orches | The Belgian Minister, Baron Moncheur, wife of the First Secretary of the French | tal from Tuxedo Park whenever they do | of Pinero by one of his most occomplished

> The Russian Ambassador fayors few performances, and is attracted only by tanism and continentalism and metropoltranscendant merit, but his adopted itanism of Washington in season comes politicians, while a courtly, clean-shaven daughter, the Countess Marguerite Casward 8:15 o'clock a goodly contingent of laughs aloud, and, figuratively speaking, sini, is frequently present, escorted by or automobile or in the convenient and Senators enjoy a play so much externally. her dame de compagnic, in which case embassy askance—there is war in the air: democratic street car from the residential | Senator Lodge seems to be indulging in a | she occupies an orchestra seat. At other times she figures in a box with some gay party of young friends, and wearing one of the enormous floral hats in which she appears to such advantage.

There are a dozen or more secretaries; Lussian, Italian, German, French, English, Swiss, South American, who are habitual attendants at first-nights; of all these perhaps the most inveterate theatregoer is Signor del Viso, one of the Diplomatique, while Boston is represented pro tem. for the Knickerbocker. by those budding diplomats Messrs. "Chartie" Richardson and "Bertle" Winthrop, and New York by the new appointed abroad, the youthful widower, Mr. Barclay Rives.

Those handsome and clever sisters, lilinois, Mesdames Reginald de Koven and Chatfield-Taylor, occasionally appear side by aide in n box. The former is brunette; the latter, rather fair than dark and one day. One may be wearing blue and the other rose-pink in the evening. Mrs. inighters.

General and Mrs. Miles occupy erchestraappear in a stage box, thus upholding the with this their first winter in Washington

Stroll out into the lobby during an entr' note and the full extent of the cosmopoliupon the lounger. Luxuriously clad Moncollans are not lacking, and Europeanized to Spain, Bellamy Storer, and the Parisian Japs are eyeing Russian secretaries-of-embassy askance—there is war in the air: portrait painter, in his orchestra stall. -while the gloved hands of the Spanish Charge d'Affaires are engaged in lighting the nerves that have been upset by a long a fresh cigarette, and Representative day's course of sprouts from Capitol IIIII "Ned" Morrell of Philadelphia, his silver sabled hair curled tight about his handsome head, is elucidating the mysteries of the right of way to Representative tators at the restaurants and form the Oliver H. P. Belmont, whose French chauffeur and Egyptian valet and other most hospitable members of the Corps has substituted the Metropolitan Club

Here, too, are Mr. S. J. Howland, keen on racing, and Mr. Edward Buckley, who has exchanged the metropolis for the Capital and is monarch of all he surveys he represents the Washington of the pres-in one of the most comfortable bachelor ont, which is composed of the essence of establishments this side of London. Mr. daughters of former Senator Farwell of Frederick May and Col. Henry May; the Legare brothers, both famous whips; Woodbury and Gist Blair; that mighty | The Washington first-nighter, up to date, hantsman, Clarence Moore, master of the heards; Odin Horstmann and handsome of the great beauties and belles of the Jack Woolsey, famous in the cotillion-

THERE is a new race being developed served for them, arranges the chairs, | Ambassodor is attracted only by some | Stilson Hutchins, with head uncovered. The Old Guard, toe, is well in evithe artist, one of whom is an amateur audience. There are great occasions when also be said that it probably centains a actress of rare ability, are often in a box. Admiral Schley fairly divides honors with larger percentage of prominent amateurs the star actor before the footlights as he bows from his box, and others, when the bership is largely composed of professusceptibilities of the emotionalism of a art, and who have joined the Postal Club celebrated actress.

The fashionable artistic element in Van Rensselaer Cruger, the "Julien Gordon" of literature, now and then graces a ington, Mrs. Edith Wharton appears at the play and remarks the interpretation exponents:

Now and again Henry Watterson strolls same excellent critic of the drama as of gentleman is pointed out as our Minister

The three hours or so passed at the play make harmony out of discord and soothe -and the racetrack far beyond-through the White House and departments to he hunting rendezvous. After the play dozess of suppers, big and little, unite the specappropriate epilogue.

The Washington first-nighter may have

household gods have been transported to pennsylvania from Fifth Avenue, and who has substituted the Metropolitan Club our own land or far away Persia. He may be a substituted the Metropolitan Club our own land or far away Persia. be a diplomat or a Congressman, a mar one type or grouped under one head,

He is of his day and generation since so many communities-a sort of social salad in which there is a little of every is sometimes a resident and again a tran-sient stranger, beoked only for a few weeks or a few months; but he is none the